

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1, 3 and 29. As a result claims 1-30 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 29 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

The objection to the drawings appears to have been accidentally repeated in the Office Action mailed on April 19, 2004. Corrected, formal drawings were submitted with the Response mailed January 29, 2004. For the sake of convenience, a copy of these previously submitted formal drawings are included herewith.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

According to the Office Action Summary, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-20 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,640,071 (Haener) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,107,894 (Mullins).

The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed. Solely to advance prosecution, however, independent claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that in the corner block, the sidewalls have block-interlocking means on opposed ends thereof. This limitation is taken from previously pending claim 3. In the Office Action mailed on October 2, 2003, the Examiner stated at the bottom of page 7 under the heading, "Allowable Subject Matter", "Regarding claims 3, 13, 14, 21-24, 29 and 30, the prior art does not disclose and it does not appear obvious to modify the prior art to disclose, a block having the structural limitations recited in claims 1 and 3 wherein the sidewalls of a corner block have block interlocking means on both ends." Because currently amended claim 1 contains the limitation of claim 3 to which the Examiner was referring in the October 2, 2003 Office Action, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-28 and 30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is respectfully requested for at least the same reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

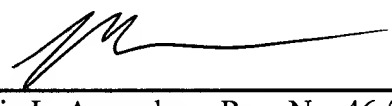
The Examiner's finding that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, claim 29 should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, any necessary extension of time is hereby requested. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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